

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 HA-05 /088 W

-----040501 141822Z /40

P 141230Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 477

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP DJ ET

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT REQUESTS OUR HELP IN STRENGTHENING  
TIES WITH ETHIOPIA

REF: DJIBOUTI 702

1. IN RATHER DRAWN-OUT CONVERSATION ON 14 DECEMBER COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES AND COMPLAINTS, DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH OF HIS COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING ETHIOPIA. HE ATTRIBUTED NO SMALL PART OF CURRENT TROUBLES WITH THE AFAR SECTION OF COUNTRY TO DIRECT EFFORTS OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXPLOIT HISTORIC CLEAVAGES BETWEEN AFARS AND SOMALIS. PRESIDENT GOULED REPORTED THAT ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES SIMPLY IGNORE DJIBOUTI DIPLOMATIC MESSAGES AND NEVER REPLY. THEIR REPRESENTATION IN DJIBOUTI CONSISTS OF SMALL-TIME INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, NAMED MOUSSA YAH SIN, WHO IS UNABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH LOCAL PEOPLE BECAUSE OF PROCLIVITY TO MARXIST CLICHES AND LITTLE ELSE.

2. PRESIDENT GOULED INDICATED THAT HE IS ACCUSED BY THE ETHIOPIANS OF BEING PRO-SOMALI AND BY THE SOMALIS OF BEING PRO-ETHIOPIAN. HE NOTED THAT HE PROVIDES FULL FACILITIES OF THE PORT, THE RIGHT TO SEND CARAVANS OF VEHICLES TO ETHIOPIA OVER DJIBOUTI ROADS  
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AND PERMITS REFUELING OF ETHIOPIAN AIRCRAFT EVEN THOUGH NO AIR SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN RETURN. HE HOPES THAT ETHIOPIA WILL SOON PROVIDE PROPER DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN DJIBOUTI SO THAT THE VIEWS OF HIS GOVERNMENT COULD BE MORE HONESTLY REPORTED TO ADDIS ABABA.

3. THE CHARGE OBSERVED THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE ETHIOPIANS, IN HIS OPINION, ARE PROBABLY SUCH THAT MESSAGES RELATING TO

ETHIOPIA'S RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO PUT ACROSS EFFECTIVELY. THE PRESIDENT INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT WE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MAKING AN APPROACH ALONG THE LINES EXPOSED IN PARA TWO ABOVE. HE COULD SEE NO REASON FOR THE ETHIOPIANS TO WISH THE COLLAPSE OF DJIBOUTI BECAUSE IT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY THAT THE SOMALIS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESULTING VACUUM THAN THE ETHIOPIANS.

4. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY ADDIS ARE REQUESTED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS REQUEST AND TO REPORT ASAP. WE SUSPECT THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AGAIN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. CLARKE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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